



# Tempe Public Art

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## **coLAB Studio, LLC; Matthew and Maria Salenger**

*Extraordinarily Common, 2010*

Bronze, steel, and poetry

### **Location:**

Evelyn Hallman Park  
McKellips Street & College Avenue

### **Artist Website:**

[www.coLABstudio.com](http://www.coLABstudio.com)

**Description:** Hearing the story of Evelyn Hallman, as described by her friends, inspired the artists to create work holding to her values of appreciating the often unnoticed elements in our surroundings. Ubiquitous desert creosote is often overlooked, much like “everyday” people around us. Researching the common creosote plant provided the artists with a new appreciation that they wanted to share. Four bronze sculptures depicting enlarged miniscule parts of creosote appear along a tertiary, but heavily utilized, desert path through the park. Text is added describing the amazing attributes of the plant, such as its ability to produce 30 million flowers in a life span, and how its resin is being tested to cure cancer and HIV. The artists provided “gallery ready art” within a typical desert surrounding, expressing the park as a wonderful space to dwell within, as itself sits cradled within the larger city. *Extraordinarily Common* earned coLAB Studio, LLC a Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Award of Merit in 2011.

**Artist biography:** Founded in 1999, coLAB studio strives to be a cooperative-laboratory (co-lab) for art and architecture, bringing ideas together, and blurring the line that would normally define one discipline as separate from another. Working simultaneously with studio, installation, and public art as well as residential and commercial architecture, creates a synergy that strengthens the concepts, ideas, and end results for every project they work on. coLAB’s working process explores the relationship between community and the physical environment. Common goals with their work are to question and define aspects of our environment including nature, urbanism, community and individual responsibility.

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